

People



Ellen S. Robbins

Partner, Litigation

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vCard

Ellen S. Robbins is Akerman’s senior go-to trial lawyer on the West Coast, with extensive experience litigating disputes in both state and federal court on behalf of public and private companies all over the world. She focuses her practice on a wide variety of complex commercial disputes and aggressively and strategically promotes her clients’ interests through litigation, alternative dispute resolution, or business resolutions.

Ellen’s work includes commercial matters such as breach of contract, fraud, unfair competition, trade secrets, alter ego, misappropriation, securities law, product liability, class actions, environmental, insurance coverage and insolvency.

Notable Work

PFAS Liability: Advising clients regarding Per and Poly-Fluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) liabilities due to the increase, at both the state and federal level, of PFAS-related litigation throughout the United States.

Trial Victory: Ellen secured a \$40 million judgment for a Fortune 500 company at trial involving claims of alter ego and fraudulent transfer that was affirmed on appeal.

Pandemic Arbitration: In one of the first arbitrations during the pandemic, Ellen prevailed on all claims in a matter involving breach of contract, fraud and misappropriation.

Unfair Competition: Successfully defeated all damages claims in connection with trial on behalf of a pharmaceutical company and claims of unfair competition.

Microsoft/Motorola Patent Litigation: Served as trial counsel in five district court and ITC proceedings in the Microsoft/Motorola smart phone patent litigation, including a landmark bench trial setting a RAND royalty for standard essential patents and obtaining a jury verdict for Microsoft in the district court proceedings.

Areas of Experience

- Litigation
- Commercial Disputes
- Appellate
- Insurance Litigation
- Class Action Defense
- Intellectual Property
- Patent Prosecution and Portfolio Management
- Patent Litigation
- Trade Secrets, Restrictive Covenants, and Unfair Competition
- Real Estate Litigation
- Environmental Litigation
- PFAS Litigation and Regulatory Counseling

Education

J.D., Harvard Law School, 1991, *magna cum laude*
 B.S., University of Illinois, 1988, *summa cum laude*

Admissions

Bars

California
 Illinois

Courts

- U.S. Court of Appeals, Federal Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Seventh Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit
- U.S. District Court, Northern District of Illinois
- U.S. District Court, Northern District of California
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of California

Related Content

EPA Establishes First-Ever Drinking Water Standards for PFAS (Forever Chemicals)
 April 11, 2024

Alter Ego and Agency Claims: Secured judgment on the pleadings in case alleging alter ego and agency claims relating a private equity firm's investment in a company providing medical care in prisons.

Post-Marital Dispute: Served as lead counsel in multiple proceedings involving breach of contract and fraud relating to post-marital dispute and valuation of private equity assets.

FINRA: Served as lead counsel in numerous FINRA arbitrations and mediations.

Ellen Robbins to Speak on the PFAS Crisis in the Beauty Industry
March 20, 2024

Akerman Hosts Webinar on An Environmental Consultant's Perspective on PFAS
February 06, 2024

Published Work and Lectures

- American Conference Institute (ACI), 11th Annual Legal, Regulatory, and Compliance Forum on Cosmetics & Personal Care Products, Speaker, "Spotlight on the PFAS Crisis: Examining The Beauty Industry's Response to the Government and Consumer Clean-Up Call," March 20, 2024
- Akerman Webinar, Speaker, "PFAS Compliance Considerations for Commercial Products/Secondary Source Industries," December 5, 2023
- Akerman Webinar, Speaker, "Practical Implications of EPA's PFAS Strategic Road Map and the Road Ahead for Conducting Business and Business Transactions for the Remainder of 2023," September 27, 2023
- Akerman Webinar, Speaker, "PFAS: What You Need to Know to Protect Your Business," June 14, 2023
- *Law360*, Co-Author, "Ruling Shows Hurdles To Defending Consumer PFAS Claims," May 3, 2023

Related Professional Experience

- Judicial Law Clerk to the Honorable Charles P. Kocoras of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois
- DePaul University, Former Adjunct Professor of Law

Affiliations

- Children's Hospital Los Angeles, Member, Board of Trustees
- Walk With Sally, Board of Directors and Mentor
- Sandpipers Women's Philanthropy, Incoming Co-Director Sandpipers Junior Program
- Leadership Hermosa Beach, Class of 2019
- USC IP Law Institute, Executive Committee Member, Judges Committee Co-Chair

Honors and Distinctions

- *Los Angeles Business Journal*, Recognized among the "Leaders of Influence - Litigators & Trial Attorneys," 2021